



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,367	01/16/2004	Sea Weng Young	B-5356 621653-6	9932

7590

11/03/2006

Richard P. Berg, Esq.
c/o LADAS & PARRY
Suite 2100
5670 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90036-5679

EXAMINER

RAMAKRISHNAIAH, MELUR

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/759,367

Applicant(s)

YOUNG ET AL.

Examiner

Melur Ramakrishnaiah

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6-27-2005</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(a) as being anticipated by Okamura (JP 2002-237873).

Regarding claim 1, Okamura discloses a circuit being set in a communication apparatus (1, Drawings 1, 3) and co-operating with a button (28, Drawing 3) of an audio receiving/transmitting device (25/29, Drawing 3) for triggering an on-hook or off-hook function by pressing the button while the communication apparatus receives an incoming call, the communication apparatus comprising an audio signal receiving port (21, Drawing 3), a bias source (not shown), and a detecting signal input port, the circuit comprising: a connecting device comprising an audio signal input end (21, Drawing 3) for electrically and detachably connecting to the audio receiving and transmitting device (25/29, Drawing 3), a first signal line in (22, Drawing 3) for connecting the audio signal receiving port and audio signal input end, and a second signal line for connecting the bias source (not shown) and the first signal line, and detecting device (40/49, Drawing 4) for electrically connecting the first signal line and the detecting signal input port, wherein first connecting point is defined in the place where detecting device electrically connects to the first signal line, the detecting device being used for detecting a detecting signal of a voltage value of the first connecting point and outputting a detecting signal

Art Unit: 2614

value of the detecting signal to the detecting signal input port, wherein, when the audio receiving/transmitting device is electrically connected to the connecting device, the communication apparatus receives the incoming call, and the button (28, Drawing 3) is pressed, a temporary broken circuit is caused between the audio signal input end of the connecting device and the audio receiving/transmitting device, that further causes the detecting signal value to be higher than threshold value (implicit in off-hook/on-hook detection) to trigger on on-hook function of the communication apparatus wherein, when the on-hook function is activated, and the audio receiving/ transmitting device is connected to the communicating device, and the button (28, Drawing 3) is pressed, the temporary broken circuit is re-caused between the audio signal input end of the communication device and audio signal receiving/transmitting device, that further causes the detecting signal value to be higher than the threshold value to trigger the off-hook function of the communication apparatus (paragraphs: 0027-0053).

Regarding claims 2-5, Okamura further teaches the following: the communication apparatus (1, Drawings: 1, 3) receives the incoming call, when the audio signal receiving port (21, Drawing 3) is activated to receive audio input signal from the audio receiving/transmitting device (25/29, Drawing 3), the audio signal receiving/transmitting device (25/29, Drawing 3) comprises an audio signal input line (22, Drawing 3) for transmitting the audio input signal, a processor (40, Drawing 4), detecting signal input port in (49, Drawing 4) connecting to the processor, the detecting signal value inputted into the processor via detecting-signal input port, the processor triggering the on-hook

and off-hook function of the communication apparatus according to the detecting signal value (paragraphs: 0027-0053).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamura in view of Uchida (US PAT: 4,802,207).

Okamura differs from claims 6-7 in that although he teaches effecting off-hook condition of communication device by pressing the button (28, Drawing 3) and using earphone for communication purposes (paragraph: 0036), he does not specifically teach the following: voltage of the bias source is higher than a threshold voltage and detecting signal value represented the threshold voltage is equal to threshold value.

However, Uchida discloses voltage line sensitive telephone line monitor which teaches using threshold voltages to detect off-hook condition of the telephone (figs. 1-2; abstract; col. 3, line 43 – col. 4, line 13).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Okamura's system to provide for the following: voltage of the bias source is higher than a threshold voltage and detecting signal value represented the threshold voltage is equal to threshold value as this arrangement would

provide one of the methods, among many possible methods, for detecting off-hook/on-hook condition of the communication device as taught by Uchida.

Regarding claims 8-10, Okamura further teaches the following: second connecting point is identified in the place where the second signal line connects to the first signal line, and the first connecting point (23, Drawing: 3) is located between the audio signal input end (25, Drawing: 3) and the second connecting point, detecting device (for example 49, Drawing: 3) is an analog to digital converter, wherein the analog to digital converter comprises detecting input end and detecting output end, the analog to digital converter electrically connects to the first signal line by detecting input end, and electrically connects to the detecting signal input port by detecting output end (paragraphs: 0027-0053).

Okamura differs from claim 11 in that he does not specifically teach bias resistance connecting to the second signal line in series connection.

However, Uchida teaches bias resistance in facilitating off-hook/on-hook detection (fig. 2, col. 6 lines 42-64).

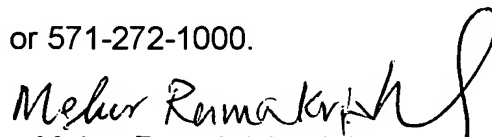
Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Okamura's system to provide for the following: bias resistance connecting to the second signal line in series connection as this arrangement would facilitate to detect on-hook/off-hook detection as taught by Uchida.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

Art Unit: 2614

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Melur Ramakrishnaiah
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614